

Social Services Appropriations Committee

02/12/19

Our Request

The Utah Association for Home Care requests an increase to the Medicaid Home Health Fee For Service Schedule of \$4,403,000.

Who We Are

- The Utah Association for Home Care (UAHC) is a non-profit 501(c)6 organization representing approximately 70% of Utah's 120+ active home health and personal care agencies. Our industry contributed over 13,000 jobs and \$639,865,143 to Utah's economy.
- Home health agencies provide medically necessary rehabilitative care and/or maintenance care to patients with chronic or acute health problems in their own homes.
- Many of the services provided by nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and social workers prevent much more expensive inpatient care, emergency room and clinic visits.
- Home care and private duty are the lowest cost model for providing health care to Medicaid recipients. A full year of in-home services often costs less than one hospital stay. A skilled nursing facility stay is 2.5 times more expensive per admission than an episode of home care for the same time frame.
- Rehospitalization rate within 30 days of inpatient discharge is less than 11% for patients receiving home health services.
- Personal care agencies help fill gaps with non-medical care when the family is unavailable or unable to provide assistance.
- Personal care services may include companionship, bathing assistance, dressing, meal preparation, medication reminders, transportation, light housekeeping and assistance with errands.
- 9/10 Americans age 65 and older want to stay at home as long as possible, and 80% believe their current home is where they will always live. At some point, nearly 70% of Americans who reach age 65 will be unable to care for themselves without assistance. Homecare makes staying home more possible.

Background for Request

- Home based providers lose money with nearly every encounter they provide to Medicaid recipients.
- The cost of providing care to Medicaid recipients has outpaced increases in Medicaid reimbursement over the last 14 years. The last rate increase for the Home care industry was in 2012, when some of

the bill codes received a 10-15% increase. Many of the codes have not received an increase since 2004 when they were raised by 4%.

- Flat Medicaid reimbursement rates since 2012 have decreased beneficiaries' access to care.
- Prior to the last increase, between 2008 and 2012, Medicaid home health recipient numbers increased by 238%. Medicaid home-health providers increased by just 48% over the same period.
- Agencies have struggled to keep a viable workforce in place as wage pressures draw workers away. For instance caregiver (CNA's/Aides) turnover increased from an annual 39% in 2009, to 66% in 2017.
- From 2014-2017, the number of home health agencies who are Medicaid providers decreased by 19%, with a 12% decrease between 2016 and 2017 alone (2018 data pending).
- The decrease in the number of personal care agencies who are Medicaid providers is even more dramatic: 40% between 2014 and 2017, with a 37% decrease between the years of 2016 and 2017.
- Of those agencies who still accept Medicaid for reimbursement, many are no longer able to provide some of the Medicaid services because the associated reimbursement rates are so low.

Discipline	Utah Medicaid Rate (2012)	Approx. Cost of Providing Service	Difference	Medicare Visit Rate	CPI Adjusted (CPI-Medical) 2019 rate	Rate Erosion %	CPI Adjusted (CPI-All) 2019 rate	Rate Erosion %
Home Health Aide/CNA	\$22.56	\$31.04	-\$8.48	\$64.94	\$19.23	-15%	\$20.41	-10%
Physical Therapy	\$80.66	\$97.00	-\$16.34	\$156.76	\$68.74	-15%	\$72.96	-10%
Skilled Nursing	\$90.88	\$106.70	-\$15.82	\$143.40	\$77.45	-15%	\$82.20	-10%
Occupational Therapy*	\$80.66	\$106.70	-\$26.04	\$157.83	\$68.74	-15%	\$72.96	-10%
Speech Language Pathology*	\$79.47	\$130.95	-\$51.48	\$170.38	\$67.73	-15%	\$71.88	-10%

*Pediatric Only

Request for Appropriation Performance Measures for "Home Health Care Services":

Increased patient access to care as evidenced by:

- Decreased waiting lists and waiting time for services.
- Decreased interruption of services due to shortage of service providers.
- Decreased caregiver and professional turnover.
- Reversal of the alarming trend in decreasing number of home health and personal care providers who accept Medicaid for reimbursement.
- Increased number of providers serving rural Utah.

Additional performance measures which are anticipated, but are more difficult to attribute directly to the effects of the appropriations due to other possible contributing factors are:

- Reduction in state-wide re-hospitalization rates.
- Improvement in social determinant of health factors.
- Improved efficiency of Medicaid dollars as evidenced by decreased costs per beneficiary when home health and/or personal care are involved.

Appreciation and Recognition

- Appropriations Committee for taking the time to hear and consider our petition.
- Medicaid Director Nate Checketts, Director of Operations Emma Chacon, the Department of Health staff and the Medical Care Advisory Committee, for helping bring attention to the plight of the industries that we represent, and to the vulnerable patients who we serve in Utah's communities.
- Representative Dunnigan and other Utah State Senators and Representatives with whom we have had conversations and who have expressed their support.
- Most importantly, the many patients and providers who have approached us with pleas for help.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service on behalf of the citizens and small businesses of Utah.

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State of Utah Medicaid Rates								
Source: http://health.utah.gov/medicaid/stplan/lookup/CoverageLookup.php								
Provider Type = "58 - Home Health Agency"								
Procedure Code	Name/Description	Medicaid Fee Schedule (as of 2/2/2018)	Last Date of Increase	Notes / Increase %	Previous Rate	Date of Previous Increase*	Increase % from Prior Rate	Prior Rates
G0154	DIRECT SKILLED NURSING SERVICES OF A LICENSED LPN O	\$ -		Replaced by G0299	\$ 82.38	1/1/2006	4%	79.06
G0299	HHS/HOSPICE OF RN EA 15 MIN	22.72	1/1/2016	10%	New code in 2016			
Q0081	INFUSION THERAPY VISIT(NO CHEMOTHERAPEUTIC DRUG	90.85	7/1/2012	10%	82.34	1/1/2006	4%	79.06
S9122	HH AIDE/CERT NURSE ASSIST,HOME;PER HR	22.56	7/1/2012	15%	19.62	1/1/2006	4%	18.83
S9123	NURSING CARE,IN HOME;BY RN,PER HOUR (VISIT)	90.90	7/1/2012		--- n/a ---			
S9128	SPEECH THERAPY, IN THE HOME, PER DIEM	79.47	7/1/2012		--- n/a ---			
S9129	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, IN THE HOME, PER DIEM	80.66	7/1/2012		--- n/a ---			
S9131	PHYSICAL THERAPY; IN THE HOME, PER DIEM	80.66	7/1/2012	12%	72.02	1/1/2006	4%	69.12
T1001	NURSING ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION	100.66	11/1/2015	15%	87.53	1/1/2006	11%	79.06
T1003	LPN/LVN SERVICES, UP TO 15 MINUTES (HH VISIT)	86.37	10/1/2003	15%	75.10	1/1/2006		
T1005	RESPIRE CARE SERVICES, UP TO 15 MINUTES (HOUR)	-	1/1/2013		--- n/a ---			
T1019	PERSONAL CARE SERVICES, PER 15 MIN, OUTPAT,(HOUR)	16.78	7/1/2012	15%	14.59	1/1/2006	4%	14.00
T1021	HOME HEALTH AIDE OR CERTIF NURSE ASSIST, PER VISIT	39.82	7/1/2012	15%	34.63	1/1/2006	4%	33.23
T1030	NURSING CARE,IN HOME,BY REGISTERED NURSE,PER DIEM	94.74	7/1/2012	15%	82.38	1/1/2006	4%	79.06
Source: http://health.utah.gov/medicaid/stplan/lookup/CoverageLookup.php								
* Date of Previous Increase is per provider records (Community Nursing Service). Items marked "--- n/a ---" means the data was not available in provider records.								